

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

points out the problem that prior art and existing technology has in terms of creating "original" digital files by scanning paper files or by creating digital files from a software program. There is a significant problem authenticating that a digital document is an un-tampered original once the digital document is circulated or sent out into cyberspace. Digital documents and sensitive medical and legal data can be easily altered or modified without taking extra-ordinary security precautions. The Application herein is focused on providing an optical scanning system that, simultaneous with the scanning process, creates a digital woven matrix between a physician signature watermark, a unique patient Identifier, and the original digital data being scanned. If any part of this digital matrix is tampered with the computer system software is capable of detecting an altered document as well as authenticating an un-tampered original. There is also a compelling practical reason to include a unique patient watermark in each digital document. There can be a large problem with mistaken identity in the transmission of digital medical records. A large city may have 50 people named Ed Jones and, since many people are leery of using social security numbers and birth dates as ID markers (due to identity theft issues) it is much safer to embed a permanent identifier watermark that is keyed to a specific individual so, in a life or death situation when medical treatment is required, the attending medical personnel have a high degree of confidence they are treating the right person and referencing the correct medical records of said person. There are ample references in the original specification to support the amendments to the claims herein. Specifically, the first paragraph of "Brief Summary of the Invention" on page 6 of the specification clearly mentions the unique scanning process of embedding a digital physician signature watermark and embedding a unique